United Nations S/PRST/2016/15

Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 7799th meeting of the Security Council, held on 1 November 2016, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council recalls all its previous resolutions and the statements of its President on the situation in Lebanon, including its statement of 22 July 2016 (S/PRST/2016/10). The Security Council reaffirms its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty, and political independence of Lebanon, in accordance with resolutions 1701 (2006), 1680 (2006), and 1559 (2004).

"The Security Council welcomes the election of the President of the Republic of Lebanon Michel Aoun in accordance with the Lebanese constitution. The election is a long-awaited and critical step to overcome Lebanon's political and institutional crisis. The Security Council urges the new President of the Republic of Lebanon and Lebanese leaders to build on their efforts thus far by continuing to work constructively to promote the country's stability, and by swiftly forming a government.

"The Security Council stresses that the formation of a unity government and the election of a parliament by May 2017, in accordance with the Constitution, are critical for Lebanon's stability and resilience to withstand regional challenges. The Security Council encourages all parties in Lebanon to demonstrate renewed unity and determination to that end, in order to ensure Lebanon's ability to address the growing security, economic, social and humanitarian challenges facing the country.

"The Security Council affirms that the preservation of Lebanon's stability is essential to regional stability and security. The Security Council underscores its previous calls on all Lebanese parties to recommit to Lebanon's policy of dissociation and to cease any involvement in the Syrian crisis, consistent with their commitment in the Baabda declaration.

"The Security Council commends Prime Minister Tammam Salam for his leadership throughout the difficult period and his efforts to enable the Government to function effectively without a President. The Security Council

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further commends Speaker Nabih Berri for his efforts at fostering continued dialogue among all Lebanese parties.

"The Security Council expresses its appreciation for the International Support Group (ISG) for Lebanon and calls on the international community, including international organizations, to ensure continued support to Lebanon in addressing the economic, security and humanitarian challenges facing the country. The Security Council reiterates its support to the Special Coordinator for Lebanon, and encourages her to pursue her good offices role in this crucial period for Lebanon, in close coordination with the ISG."

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Security Council

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3 November 2016

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 7801st meeting of the Security Council, held on 3 November 2016, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Mali", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council strongly condemns the repeated violations of the ceasefire arrangements by the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups in and around Kidal over the last months, which threaten the viability of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali. The Security Council urges the signatory armed groups to cease hostilities immediately, to strictly adhere to the ceasefire arrangements and to resume dialogue without delay for the implementation of the Agreement.

"The Security Council urges the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups to fully and sincerely maintain their commitments under the Agreement. The Security Council recalls its readiness to consider targeted sanctions against those who take actions to obstruct the implementation of the Agreement as well as those who resume hostilities and violate the ceasefire, as expressed in its resolution 2295 (2016).

"The Security Council acknowledges the steps taken by signatory parties over the last year to implement the Agreement, welcomes the progress towards establishing interim administrations in the north of Mali and expresses its deep concern over the persistent delays for the full implementation of the Agreement. The Security Council underscores the pressing need to deliver tangible and visible peace dividends to the population in the north and other parts of Mali in order to keep the momentum of the Agreement.

"The Security Council urges the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups to take urgent and concrete action to fully deliver on their obligations under the Agreement without further delay, in particular to deploy joint security patrols, to accomplish the process of establishing interim administrations in the north of Mali, to operationalize the commissions for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of armed combatants, and to accelerate the redeployment of the Malian Defense and Security Forces (MDSF) throughout the country within the framework of the Agreement.

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"The Security Council urges the Government of Mali to engage with the Secretary-General, through his Special Representative for Mali, to establish concrete benchmarks and timelines to assess the progress toward the full implementation of the Agreement and recalls its request to the Secretary-General to include them in his December 2016 report.

"The Security Council calls on members of the *Comité de suivi de l'Accord* and other relevant international partners to sustain their support to the implementation of the Agreement. The Security Council emphasizes the central role the SRSG should continue to play to support and oversee the implementation of the Agreement by the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups.

"The Security Council encourages bilateral and multilateral partners to increase their support to accelerate the redeployment of the Malian Defense and Security Forces, once reformed and reconstituted, to the north of Mali, particularly by providing relevant equipment and training, in coordination with the Government of Mali and MINUSMA and within the framework of the Agreement.

"The Security Council reiterates its concern over the expansion of terrorist and other criminal activities across Mali, and, in particular, into central and southern Mali, as well as the intensification of intercommunal violence in the Centre of Mali. The Security Council emphasizes that the Malian authorities have primary responsibility for the provision of stability and security throughout the territory of Mali.

"The Security Council strongly condemns the continuing attacks, including terrorist attacks, against the Malian defense and security forces, MINUSMA and the French forces. The Security Council underlines the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism to justice. The Security Council urges the Government of Mali to take measures to ensure that those responsible for these attacks are held accountable.

"The Security Council acknowledges the significant capability gaps within MINUSMA and underlines its request to the Secretary-General to expeditiously identify options and take all appropriate additional measures to enable MINUSMA to fully implement its mandate and to ensure the safety and security of its personnel. The Security Council urges Member States to urgently provide adequate capabilities to MINUSMA, in particular aviation and transportation capabilities, to fill in these gaps.

"The Security Council reiterates its serious concern over the insecurity which hinders humanitarian access, condemns attacks against humanitarian personnel, and emphasizes the need for all parties to respect the principles of humanitarian assistance (humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence) in order to ensure the continued provision of humanitarian assistance. The Security Council also emphasizes the need for all parties to ensure the safety and protection of civilians receiving assistance and the security of humanitarian personnel operating in Mali.

"The Security Council calls on Member States in the region, notably through the G5 Sahel and the African Union Nouakchott Process, to advance their cooperation with MINUSMA in order to strengthen regional security and facilitate the implementation of its mandate."